

Claims

1. A method of data reading a symbol on an item, the symbol constituting one of a plurality of symbol types, comprising the steps of obtaining item identification data by reading the symbol with a data reader; determining the symbol type; reporting the item identification data to a host; selecting a delay time based on the symbol type and/or on data embedded in the symbol; activating a timer set to expire after the selected delay time elapses; preventing subsequent reporting of the item identification data before the timer expires.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the delay time is longer for symbol types corresponding to weighable items than for symbol types corresponding to non-weighable items.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the delay time is longer for symbol types corresponding to produce items than for symbol types corresponding to other items.

4. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of restarting the timer if the symbol is read before the timer expires.

5. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of reporting the item identification data to the host if the symbol is read after the timer expires.

6. A method of data reading a symbol on a weighable item, comprising the steps of providing a data reader with an integrated weigh scale; obtaining item identification data by reading the symbol with the data reader; activating a timer set to expire after a delay time elapses; reporting the item identification data to a host; obtaining weight of the item by weighing the item on the weigh scale; preventing subsequent reporting of the item identification data to the host while the item remains on the weigh scale; removing the item from the weigh scale; preventing subsequent reporting of the item identification data before the timer expires.

7. A method according to claim 6 further comprising the step of modifying the delay time based on the type of symbol read and/or on data embedded in the symbol.

8. A method according to claim 6 wherein the delay time is in a range of 350 milliseconds to 10 seconds.

9. A method according to claim 6 further comprising the step of restarting the timer if the symbol is read before the timer expires.

10. A method according to claim 6 further comprising the step of reporting the item identification data to the host if the symbol is read after the timer expires.

11. A method according to claim 6 further comprising the step of continuously restarting the timer while the item remains on the weigh scale.

12. A method according to claim 6 further comprising the step of recognizing that the item has been at least substantially removed from the weigh scale before allowing the timer to expire.

13. A method of data reading a symbol on an item, comprising the steps of providing a data reader with an integrated weigh scale; obtaining item identification data by reading the symbol with the data reader; determining whether the symbol corresponds to a weighable item or a non-weighable item; activating a timer set to expire after a delay time elapses; reporting the item identification data to a host; obtaining weight of the item by weighing the item on the weigh scale if the item is a weighable item; preventing subsequent reporting of the item identification data before the timer expires.

14. A method according to claim 13 further comprising the step of preventing the timer from expiring until after the item is removed from the weigh scale and the delay time elapses if the symbol corresponds to a weighable item.

15. A method according to claim 13 wherein the timer is set for a longer delay time for weighable items than for non-weighable items.

16. A system for reading a symbol on an item, the symbol constituting one of a plurality of symbol types, comprising a data reader for reading the symbol; a weigh scale integrated with the data reader for weighing the item; a system processor in the data reader for determining the symbol type; a timer in communication with the system processor for preventing reporting of subsequent reads of the symbol that occur before the timer expires, the timer settable for different expiration times based on the symbol type and/or on data embedded in the symbol.

17. A system according to claim 16 wherein the timer is adapted to restart while an item remains on the weigh scale.

18. A system according to claim 16 wherein the timer is set for a longer expiration time for symbol types corresponding to weighable items than for symbol types corresponding to non-weighable items.

19. A system according to claim 16 wherein the timer is set for a longer expiration time for symbol types corresponding to produce items than for other symbol types.

20. A system according to claim 16 wherein the timer is restartable, the timer restarting if the data reader reads the symbol before the timer expires.

21. A system according to claim 16 further comprising a load cell in communication with the weigh scale for obtaining weight of the item and for recognizing when the item is removed from the weigh scale.

22. A system according to claim 21 further comprising a signal processor for transmitting data from the load cell to the system processor.